



## Coronavirus Update – March 20<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

In these unprecedented times, I have once again been amazed by the support and resilience of our profession and our school community. Yesterday was such an emotional day. Our Year 11 and 13 students, in particular, had every right to feel the range of emotions that they did: anger, frustration, fear, confusion. However, they came to school in great numbers to support one another and to say farewell to their teachers. This is certainly not the way they would have imagined ending 11 or 13 years of their school lives.

### Examination Classes – Years 11 and 13

The staff here will be making sure that we keep ourselves fully informed and ready to carry out every possible action that we can to secure the summer grades for our students. We are hoping to receive and act upon the direction from Welsh Government and the WJEC that is anticipated imminently. We will continue to update parents and students as soon as we have any details. This is the information that we currently have; it is, of course, subject to change:

- Exams will not now happen for Years 11 and 13. The WJEC and Qualifications Wales will get in touch with schools to ask for a range of evidence to help them award grades. The results days will remain as they are calendared now.
- There is a clear statement that the children are not to be disadvantaged in examination outcomes.
- The WJEC and other boards will look at grades which have already been externally verified, as well as teacher assessments and evaluations to reach a judgement; this work is ongoing in terms of logistics, including a moderation system. We will not, therefore, be issuing any predicted grades for pupils in Years 11 at 13 from this point onwards.

It is expected that pupils in Year 11 should try to finish any outstanding work they may have. In addition, they should continue to complete work in subjects that they plan to study next year. All work is accessible in the subject document areas in Microsoft Office Teams. Year 11 pupils who are returning to Bryntirion next year (for study in Year 12) can expect a brief test in the GCSE content to enable us to assess finally their suitability for selected 'A' level courses. (e.g. if a pupil is hoping to study English, History and PE they can be expected to be tested in these areas when we re-open). We hope that this will provide an incentive to extend their knowledge and understanding in areas they wish to study or are curious about, preparing them for Year 12. Year 13 pupils should continue to complete any outstanding coursework if they have any. Preparation for university or further study should remain a priority, and work is available within TEAMS.

### Expectations of Years 10 and 12

Summer examinations for Years 10 and 12 have also been either cancelled or postponed. We have no firm details yet to provide in relation to rescheduling. At time of writing, we suspect that any rescheduled examinations will either be held early in the new school year or that they will have one exam sitting at the end of the course, as currently happens in England. Please be mindful that we have no formal notification of this. It is therefore vital that all students fully engage with the work programme and resources available to them in the subject areas within Microsoft Office 365



Teams. We will be providing further information and additional resources, and pupils will be informed of expectations via ClassCharts and TEAMS.

## **Expectations of Years 7 to 9**

Homeworking for pupils in Years 7 to 9 will be regularly and routinely set and communicated via the homework function on ClassCharts. Pupils will be expected to complete this. However, it is impossible for pupils to complete five hours of supervised learning at home as they do in school, so we suggest that they set aside two or three hours a day where they immerse themselves in the activities set. Please ensure that there is a daily exercise programme built into your child's day.

The Welsh Government will also be providing resources for homeworking through its Hwb platform. All pupils will receive login and access details in the next two weeks; this information will be emailed directly to parents.

For general homeworking ideas a useful online resource is the website 'Form Time Ideas':  
<https://formtimeideas.com/>

## **ALN learners**

The following links can support pupils with ALN who may be finding it difficult to manage emotions, change and home-working:

<https://autismteachingstrategies.com>  
<https://tes.com>  
<https://worksheetplace.com>

These are for learners who need to continue learning phonics

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk>  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCywh5mhHMgsf5deT1nJ1Ua>  
<https://themeasuredmom.com>

Links to support Dyslexic Learners:

<https://www.tes.com/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?=76ROY4E4ZbE>  
<https://www.beatingdyslexia.com/>

Mrs Richards has prepared further homeworking resources for ALN learners, and we will be in contact with individual pupils and their parents with further advice and support.

## **Pastoral Support**

We are going to miss enormously the daily interaction we have with our pupils and fully understand that the prospect of isolation is difficult to adjust to. We are concerned at the impact that this will have on our health and wellbeing and that of our students, many of whom are vulnerable and less able to rationalise the situation, particularly in light of the uncertainty of an end date. But we are a school community and will continue to be so. This may need to take an alternative shape in the coming months, but we will continue to be here. In order to continue to support you we have prepared a guide to wellbeing which you may find of use. This contains a wealth of information including contact details and phone numbers. I have attached it for your



information. We will be checking in on some pupils from time to time, so don't be surprised to have a phone call from your Head of Year!

See attached: **Bryntirion Parents Coronavirus Wellbeing links and Support**

In addition you may be able to contact the relevant Head of Year with queries or concerns.

Head of Year 7: Ms C Herbert

[catherine.herbert@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.herbert@bridgend.gov.uk)

Head of Year 8: Mrs K Poole

[Katie.Llewelyn@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:Katie.Llewelyn@bridgend.gov.uk)

Head of Year 9: Mr D Walters

[Daniel.walters@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:Daniel.walters@bridgend.gov.uk)

Head of Year 10: Mr A Farrell

[Andrew.farrell@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.farrell@bridgend.gov.uk)

Head of Year 11: Mrs J Walker

[jane.sheppard@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:jane.sheppard@bridgend.gov.uk)

Head of Year 12 & 13: Mrs L Allinson

[lisa.allinson@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.allinson@bridgend.gov.uk)

Pupils can also communicate with staff via TEAMS

### **Parental Support**

We know that this is an incredibly anxious and worrying time for parents. We will do everything we can to support you and your children in the next weeks and months. Members of the Senior Leadership Team will be contactable by email should you have any queries or concerns. They can be contacted on [admin.bryntirioncomp@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:admin.bryntirioncomp@bridgend.gov.uk). Specific contact emails are listed on the school's website.

On behalf of all the staff at Bryntirion, I would like to thank you for your support and understanding over the past few weeks. We all wish you and your family the very best.

Please take care, look after yourselves and our children.

Yours sincerely

RK Pawar - Headteacher

